

Non-Christian Views of Marriage & Sexuality

Secular Humanism

- Humanists do not believe in **absolutes**.
 1. Heterosexual monogamy epitomizes social **slavery**.
 2. Traditional concepts of marriage and family have outlived their **usefulness**.
 3. The family is outdated because it perpetuates the domination of **women** by **men**.
 4. The traditional family could be replaced by any of the following:
 - a. **Open** marriage
 - b. **Group** marriage
 - c. **Same-sex** marriage
 - d. **Part-time** marriage
 - e. **Cohabitation**
- Sexuality is not **constrained** by **morals**.

"We believe that intolerant attitudes, often cultivated by orthodox **religions** and puritanical cultures, unduly repress sexual conduct...The many varieties of sexual exploration should not in themselves be considered 'evil'...Individuals should be permitted to express their sexual proclivities and pursue their life-style **as they desire**." (Humanist Manifesto II, p. 18.)
- Sexuality is defined by what **society** deems normal. Therefore, viewed as acceptable are...
 1. **Homosexuality**
 2. **Pedophilia**
 3. **Bestiality**
 4. **Pre-marital** and **extra-marital** sex

"By sanctioning sex before marriage, we will prevent **fear** and **guilt**." (Lena Levine, "Psycho-Sexual Development," Planned Parenthood News, Summer 1953, p. 10.)

New Age Movement

- New Agers also do not believe in absolutes.
 1. **Truth** is defined by the **individual**. Therefore, **you** decide what is and is not right for you.
 2. **No one else** can tell you how to live your life.
 3. As long as you are true to yourself, you are right. This includes your attitudes toward sexuality which may include...
 - Marriage and family are outdated, **unenlightened** institutions.
 - **Divorce** is successful because divorcees have come to realize they no longer **need** marriage to achieve fulfillment.
 - Sexual freedom is an important part of societal **evolution**.
 - An individual's sexual preferences are neither **good** nor **evil**. They are merely personal choices to be **respected**.

Postmodernism

- Postmodernists do not believe in absolutes, nor do they believe in **metanarratives** (**big stories** that explain reality). Therefore...
 1. Truth is defined by a person's **friends** and **community**.
 2. Truth can **differ** from group to group and town to town.
 3. As long as you are living within the "**morality**" of your group, you are right. This includes your attitudes toward sexuality.
 - Marriage is the greatest of all **evils**.
 - Each person can define his/her own **sexuality**.
 - All sexual preferences are equally **valid**.
 - Individuals can exist in more than one gender form (**heterosexual**, **homosexual**, **bi**-sexual, **trans-gender**).